

## PROF. A. MILNE-EDWARDS.

IT is with sincere regret that we have to record the death, at the age of sixty-four, of Prof. Alphonse Milne-Edwards, the Director of the Paris Museum of Natural History, which took place at Paris on Saturday, April 21, after a brief illness. The late professor was of English descent, being the grandson of Mr. Bryan Edwards, M.P., a West Indian planter who settled at Bruges; and, with this ancestry, it is curious to note how extremely imperfect was his colloquial knowledge of the English language. His father, Prof. Henri Milne-Edwards, was the well-known eminent zoologist of Paris, who died in 1885; and father and son were for many years associated in zoological work.

Born in Paris in 1835, Alphonse Milne-Edwards took his medical degree in 1859, and was nominated Professor at the School of Pharmacy in 1865. In 1876 he acted as deputy for his father as Professor of Zoology at the Jardin des Plantes; in the following year he succeeded the late Prof. P. Gervais as a member of the Institute of the Paris Academy of Sciences; and in 1885 he entered the Academy of Medicine. In 1891, being already Professor of Zoology, he was appointed Director of the Paris Museum of Natural History and of the Menagerie in the Jardin des Plantes; his official title as regards the latter post being *Administrateur chargé de la Direction de la Ménagerie au Musée d'Histoire naturelle*.

Having published, in 1864, an important memoir on the anatomy and affinities of the Chevrotains, and a second, in 1866, on the osteology of the Dodo, in 1867 Milne-Edwards issued the first fasciculus of his magnificent work, entitled "Recherches Anatomiques et Paléontologiques pour servir à l'Histoire des Oiseaux Fossiles de la France," which was completed in four volumes (two of text and two of plates) in 1872. As mentioned by Prof. A. Newton, this monumental work marked an epoch in ornithology, for it showed the possibility of forming a classification of birds by means of their "long bones." Much interest was excited by the identification in this work of remains of peculiar existing African and Malagasy genera of birds in the French Tertiaries. While this work was in progress, Alphonse Milne-Edwards was associated with his father in bringing out the "Recherches pour servir à l'Histoire naturelle des Mammifères," which was commenced in 1868 and completed in 1874. A large proportion of the latter was devoted to the description of new types of mammals from Central Asia, among them being the many strange forms, like *Aeluropus*, then recently obtained by Père David in the Moupin district of Eastern Tibet. The period from 1866 to 1874 also saw the issue of "Recherches sur la Faune ornithologique éteinte des Îles Mascareignes et de Madagascar." And the late professor's interest in the Malagasy fauna was likewise shown in a paper on the embryology of the Lemurs, published in 1871, and in his contributions to Grandidier's "History of Madagascar," still in course of publication.

But it would be a mistake to suppose that the researches of Prof. Milne-Edwards were by any means restricted to mammals and birds. From an early period in his career his attention had been directed to the study of zoophytes and crustaceans; and later on he had attentively studied the animals adherent to submarine cables, which had been raised after a sojourn at the bottom of the sea. With this latter subject the study of the ocean floor was intimately connected. And in 1880 he brought before his Government the advisability of fitting out an expedition for submarine surveying, with the result that in the following year a party of savants, under his own direction, embarked on the *Travailleur* to survey the Gulf of Gascony. The results obtained were so important that the same vessel was again put at the disposal

of the professor, who completed the survey of the Gulf of Gascony, and explored the sea-bottom of the Strait of Gibraltar and of a considerable portion of the Mediterranean. In 1882 the *Travailleur* undertook a surveying voyage of the Atlantic as far as the Canaries. The year following the *Talisman* took the place of the *Travailleur*, and carried Prof. Milne-Edwards and his associates to the coasts of Portugal, Morocco, and the Canary and Cape Verde Islands, and then on to the Sargasso Sea, whence it returned by way of the Azores. The results of these dredging expeditions were published under the title of "Expéditions scientifiques du *Travailleur* et du *Talisman* pendant les années 1881, 1882 et 1883."

For these deep-sea explorations, Milne-Edwards was awarded the gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society. In 1876 he was elected a Foreign Member of the Zoological Society of London, and in 1882 a Foreign Correspondent of the Geological Society. He paid several visits to England, the last on the occasion of the Zoological Congress at Cambridge in 1898. R. L.

## NOTES.

THE funeral of the Duke of Argyll will take place at the family burial ground, Kilmun, on the Holy Loch, on Tuesday next, May 8.

THE annual conversazione of the Institution of Electrical Engineers will be held at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, on Tuesday, June 26.

THE Duke of Cambridge, president of the Sanitary Institute, will occupy the chair at the Institute dinner on Friday, May 11.

THE University of Göttingen has awarded the Volbrecht prize for scientific research to Dr. Gegenbauer, professor of anatomy at Heidelberg. The prize is of the value of 12,000 marks (600*l.*)

TO commemorate the foundation of the k. k. geologischen Reichsanstalt of Vienna, in 1849, a jubilee meeting will be held in the great hall of the Institute on June 9, and representatives of science or of scientific institutions are invited to be present.

THE *Botanical Gazette* records the death by drowning, in September last, of Prof. Kyokichi Yatabe, the founder of the Botanical Society of Japan.

THE annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held at Columbia University, New York, from June 25 to June 30.

WE learn, from the *American Naturalist*, that the herbarium and the principal part of the botanical library of Columbia University have been transferred to the New York Botanic Garden, and that, in future, the advanced work in botany of the University will be carried on in the laboratory of the Garden.

THE *British Medical Journal* states that the tenth award of the Riberi prize of 20,000 lire (800*l.*) will be made by the Royal Academy of Medicine of Turin on December 31, 1901, for the best printed or manuscript work, or the most important discovery, during the quinquennium 1897-1901, in the domain of experimental pathology, hygiene, or forensic medicine.

THE Franklin Institute has awarded John Scott medals and premiums to Mr. A. V. Groupe for his improved braiding machine, to Messrs. C. A. Bell and S. Tainter for their invention of the graphophone, and to Mr. A. M. Hopkins for his pneumatic system for preventing the bursting of water-pipes by freezing. Elliott Cresson medals have been awarded to Mr.